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are more readily accessible in printed form. This is true ; nevertheless a service would be performed by going outside the beaten track for the significant unprinted data bearing on this period, when events were shaping themselves for Spain's downfall, so remarkably predicted in 1859 by the German traveler in the Philippines, Ferdinand Jagor. The work is being put forth in very suitable form, neatly and plainly bound, on deckle-edged paper, with gilt top. Bibliographic data are appended to each volume, and we are promised a final volume containing a full bibliography and analytical index. The illustrations, reproductions of old paintings, facsimiles of documents and rare maps, have thus far been very satisfactory. That the editors of this work have launched it without time for sufficient preparation is the criticism to be made upon it ; and a serious criticism it is. But it could not fail to be a most valuable series, from every point of view, at this moment in our national history, and especially in view of the almost total lack of available publications on Philippine history in the English language. With every reasonable prospect for more and more effective editorial work in the succeeding volumes, it is to be said that the volumes already out seem to make the work one indispensable to every well-equipped reference library in the United States.

JAMES A. LEROY.

London in the Eighteenth Century. By SIR WALTER BESANT. (London : Adam and Charles Black ; New York : The Macmillan Company. 1903. Pp. xvii, 667.)

It was the aim of the late Sir Walter Besant to do for the London of the nineteenth century what Stow in his classic *Survey* did for the sixteenth. To that end he planned a great coöperative work, in which he reserved to himself the task of writing a general history of the city. Though his share of the undertaking was practically completed before his death, it was thought best, for various reasons, to publish in the present volume only the portion relating to the eighteenth century. This history contains the ripest fruits of Sir Walter's labors : indeed, we are told that he "was wont to refer to it as his *magnum opus*, and it was the work by which he most desired to be remembered by posterity." To attempt in a brief review to give an adequate idea of the wealth of information contained in the stately quarto now before us would result in a "mere aggregate of bewildered jottings." Consequently it will be necessary to restrict ourselves to a bare indication of the classes of subjects treated and to a few references to some of the more striking facts and conclusions.

Besant had already shown in his *Chaplain of the Fleet and All Sorts and Conditions of Men* that he knew and loved his London as few men have known and loved it. For over thirty years he was engaged in reading and taking notes on the social side of London life, not only in the present but in the past. The results of this patient accumulation are grouped and presented in this posthumous work with the practiced novelist's eye for picturesque effect, though the general symmetry is marred

here and there by repetitions and incongruous heapings of irrelevant facts. Moreover, though the book on the whole appears to be trustworthy, as well as intensely interesting, one should not look here for a cautious and critical sifting of material and a precise gaging of sources of information. The author's methods are not those of the trained historian, and he frankly disarms criticism in this respect. "If it were required," he says, "to name authorities for any statement advanced, or to give reasons for any conclusions, I could not probably do so, since the authority would lie hidden in some obscure history or some long-forgotten tedious novel." The following example will illustrate the occasional ingenuousness of his historical method. After telling a curious story of how the Spanish and Portuguese Jews burned their valuable library in Bevis Marks (p. 194), he adds: "I give the story as it is related in the *Gentlemen's Magazine*. I confess that the thing itself, as it is related, seems to me to be incredible." In the preface (p. x) he gives a list of his chief authorities. Dates and places of publication are not indicated, but this omission is not so serious, since there are almost no specific page references cited in the body of the text.

The first section of the work is devoted to a series of "historical notes," a selection of twenty characteristic episodes in the history of eighteenth-century London, ranging from the Great Storm of 1703 to the Reform Bill of 1832. The author oversteps his chronological limits advisedly, very properly regarding the era of reform immediately preceding the Victorian age as more fitting than the year 1800 for a line of demarcation between the new century and the old. Having completed his brief and fragmentary but picturesque historical introductory sketch, he proceeds to his more especial work of reconstructing in a most minute and lifelike fashion the condition of London and the life of its people during the period in question. This exhaustive survey is arranged under six sections: the city and the streets; church and chapel; government and trade; manners and customs; society and amusements; crime, police, justice, and debtor's prisons. Literature is not included, since that subject was to be reserved for a separate treatment.

The city seems to have opposed the Crown in almost every point of public policy, in the American war and the war with France, in supporting Queen Caroline and in supporting Parliamentary reform. Nevertheless, the city's attitude counted for little, owing to its decline "in dignity, position, and influence." The system of government and administration is treated in some detail, and much light is thrown on the state of trade. From the chapter on trade unions it is evident that considerable discontent existed among the working classes. Likewise it is encouraging to learn that even a century ago masters and mistresses had no end of trouble with their domestics. The list of trades, banks, and newspapers (pp. 392-396) furnishes valuable data.

In an age when religion was at a low ebb throughout the country, when upper classes were worldly and skeptical, when the lower classes were sunk in degrading vice, there seems to have been no little religious

feeling among the city middle class, and this was not confined to the dissenters alone. Certainly there was a very decided degree of outward observance, if we may judge from the frequency of church services, and the popularity of a certain type of theological literature. In strange contrast, the men drank deeply, while card-playing, even among women, was excessive: perhaps inevitable counter-irritants to the prevailing monotony. Some amusing extracts from the diary of one Thomas Turner (pp. 240-242) furnish an intimate introduction to the daily life of the period.

There was no end of amusements for those who had the leisure and inclination to indulge in them — amusements, however, which apparently appealed in general only to the two extremes of society. From May to October no fewer than eighty-two days were given over to fairs. In theory at least, holy days had ceased to be regarded by the sober tradesmen and merchants; for, with the exception of Christmas and Easter Monday, craftsmen were entitled only to Sundays. This restriction, however, did not apply to public officials, who enjoyed as many as ten movable and forty-one fixed holidays. Moreover, the craftsmen were accustomed to take more than their allotted two days. November 17, the anniversary of Elizabeth's accession, was the occasion for antipapal demonstrations, while May 29, the day of the Restoration, was long celebrated. Theaters flourished: it is said there were twice as many in London as in Paris. In the city proper, however, there never was a stage, except possibly the inn-yard where Tarleton acted.

It is a sharp transition from amusements, from coffee-houses and clubs, both of which latter, by the way, are admirably treated, to the somber topics of disease, poverty, and crime. The state of public health was appalling, most particularly in the case of infant mortality, it being estimated that over 50 per cent. of the children died under the age of 5 years. Statistics are cited to show that of a population of 10,000,000 in England and Wales there were 80,000 criminals and 1,040,716 objects of parish relief. Begging and the desertion of children prevailed to a startling extent. Mendicants deliberately made capital of the most revolting deformities. The iniquities in the employment of juvenile chimney-sweeps were not only unchecked but unregarded till the famous report presented June 22, 1817. The lot of the insane and of those treated as such was especially grievous. Numberless instances are cited of persons confined in private madhouses by those anxious to be rid of them. As if the condition of the public institutions was not bad enough, the poorer classes were accustomed to confine their unfortunate kinsmen in garrets and cellars, where, loaded with chains, they were left to unspeakable torments. The sad condition of poor debtors is well known, but in view of the ample and specific evidence presented in this volume we are made to realize more clearly and vividly than before the injustice and iniquity of the system. The author's remarks on prisons in general apply with particular cogency to this class. "The eighteenth century," he says, "has many terrible sights and shows: there is nothing

more terrible, more sickening, more heartrending, than the picture of its prisons ; than the thought of innocent girls and boys thrust into the whirlpool of hell which they pleasantly called a House of Correction or a House of Reformation."

The lawlessness and disorder of the period call for especial mention. Leaving out of account the highway robberies and housebreakings, a matter of common knowledge, it is estimated that £710,000 in petty thefts was disposed of each year in old rag and iron shops, of which there were 300 in 1796 ; and no less than £500,000 was lost annually from unloading ships in the Thames. Violence and rioting had attained the most startling dimensions, and the mob on occasions when it got the bit in its teeth careered widely on its path of destruction. A celebrated example may be found in the Gordon riots so vividly described in the pages of the present book. There was no organized system of policing, the parish officers were as a rule venal and inefficient, and the soldiers were only called in as a last resort. Sporadic private efforts to keep order, such as the mug-house associations, were able to exercise only a temporary and limited restraint. Frightful penalties covered the pages of the statute-books, to be sure — capital punishments (a list is given p. 519), transportation, and imprisonment, which in the then deplorable condition of the prisons was a form of punishment almost equally to be dreaded. Indeed the prevalence of jail-fever frequently meant ultimate death for the prisoner, and it was in fact so contagious that even judges, juries, and attendants at court were stricken down. It is often alleged that these excessive and often barbarous forms of punishment defeated their own ends. Doubtless there is much in this contention, but it is equally true and less generally understood that much of the trouble was due to the difficulty of enforcing the laws. The inadequate police system, the corrupt judges, and the fear of the desperate and dangerous classes made it frequently impossible not only to secure arrests, but also to obtain convictions. The timid citizen often preferred to leave the discovery of crimes to paid informers. All sorts of injustice are evident in the administration of the laws. For instance, one Major Bernardi and certain others were imprisoned for a supposed share in a conspiracy to murder King William and, in spite of the *Habeas Corpus* Act of 1679, were without trial continued in prison by four successive acts of Parliament under William III., Anne, George I., and George II. The terrible practice of *peine forte et dure* still existed, though the present account does not state that it was abolished in 1772. The ghastly revelry accompanying Tyburn processions, abolished in 1783, are graphically described from a contemporary account. Apparently there were very few state executions in this century, only five persons being executed on Tower Hill.

A few samples might be cited to illustrate the stores of miscellaneous information which the author has brought together. Much space is devoted to the condition of the London streets, which "were no cleaner ; . . . were as badly lighted ; . . . were as inefficiently guarded in 1744 as in 1344." There is a picturesque and animated account of the river-

side and its population. Fishing in the river was still an occupation ; and, though bridges existed, boats were considerably employed for crossing. The extent of gambling and betting is proverbial ; but it is perhaps not so generally known that from 1569 to 1826, first at intervals and then as an annual institution, government lotteries existed. Dueling was widely prevalent, indeed even clergymen fought, but contests were rarely fatal. There was at least one instance of wife-selling at Smithfield during the century, and the king's crower still crowed the hours on Good Friday night.

A few errors remain to be noted. Occasionally when venturing into the field of general history the author is apt to commit himself to inadequate or misleading generalizations, *e. g.* when he speaks of taxation without representation (p. 31). The Corporation Act was not repealed by George I. (p. 9). The peace of Paris is said to have been signed in 1787 (p. 33). The possible implication that Clarkson and Wilberforce were Quakers (p. 62) is obviously erroneous, though most of those associated with them in the effort to abolish the slave-trade were of that faith ; the act abolishing slavery in the colonies was passed in August, 1833, not in 1834 (p. 62). Ludgate is said to mean a postern ; but nothing is said to indicate that the hill got its name from the temple supposed to have been erected to Lud, the mythical British king, anciently regarded as the god of commerce (p. 99). Bishop Porteous's name is usually spelt Porteus (p. 163). The statement that the East India Company was founded in the sixteenth century is apt to convey a misleading impression, since it did not receive a charter till 1600, and was only founded the year before (p. 213). It is said (p. 532) that prisoners on criminal charges were not allowed counsel till 1820 ; as a matter of fact they were not allowed the full benefits of counsel till the Prisoner's Counsel Act of 1836. A statement made by Strype in 1754 is referred to (p. 538), whereas he died in 1737. In the reference to the Court of Requests (p. 566) it would have made matters clearer to state that the body under that name was abolished by Statute 16 C. II. Occasional comments (*e. g.* pp. 13, 17, 18, 20) seem rather flat for such an experienced writer. But these are all mere minor blemishes : the last word must be one of praise and gratitude for this valuable and interesting contribution.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

The Correspondence of the Colonial Governors of Rhode Island, 1723-1775. Published by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Edited by GERTRUDE SELWYN KIMBALL. (Boston and New York : Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. 1902, 1903. Two vols., pp. lxii, 434 ; xxvi, 498.)

As it becomes more common to render the manuscript collections in American archives available in print, the need will be more apparent for a work which shall serve as a model in methods of detail. Without apparently in the least intending to supply such a model, the editor of